

Continuing Beyond Just Walls (Nehemiah 7)

Proposition: Every child of God of us can not only rebuild walls of protection around our lives but can continue to grow beyond just walls and go forward for God by applying the principals that Nehemiah exemplifies in this chapter.

- I. **The Control of the Place (Vs. 1-2)**
 - A. A Control for Looking (Vs. 1)
 - B. A Control for Laboring (Vs. 1)
 - C. A Control for Leading (Vs. 2)
- II. **The Commands for the Pass (Vs. 3-4)**
 - A. Commands for Closing (Vs. 3a)
 - B. Commands for Keeping (Vs. 3b)
- III. **The Collection of the People (Vs. 5-60)**
 - A. A Divine Collection (Vs. 5)
 - B. A Directing Collection (Vs. 6-60)
- IV. **The Conflict over the Parentage (Vs. 61-65)**
 - A. A Conflict Defused by Relationship (Vs. 61, 64)
 - B. A Conflict Disrupted by Revelation (Vs. 65)
- V. **The Contribution to the Project (Vs. 66-73)**
 - A. The Contribution of a Strong Group (Vs. 66-69)
 - B. The Contribution of Selfless Giving (Vs. 70-73)

Continuing Beyond Just Walls (Neh. 7)
I've heard it said that when a business a company a corporation reaches a certain point of success it begins to go backward. When the owner that worked long hours to make the company successful begins to spend 3 out of 5 days golfing instead of managing and more and more turns responsibility over to hirelings the company is likely to regress. This is the case w/ Nehemiah. They were successful. Walls up. They are back where they once were. But now it is important to keep going. To keep growing Beyond just walls ~~but~~ make a great city & Kingdom once again. We too can not be satisfied with just walls.

I. The Central of the Place (Vs 1-2)
Nehemiah began to organize and place control of this city into the people's hands. There are insight into the central ^{heads} of the city.
A. A Central for Looking (Vs 1) - Porters were ones that were to watch the traffic at the gates. Being cautious of what goes in and out. So, should we be cautious and watch what comes in the gates of our ^{eyes, ears} soul.
B. A Central for Laboring (Vs 1) - The singers and Levites were in charge of the labor for the Lord! It was one of the first things set up. God's business. Just what

is preeminent in your life. Serving self or Lord
C. A Central for Leading (Vs 2) - Hanani
was the Godly brother that came to Nehemiah
in Ch 1. He was a leader that was faithful to
God. Ultimately our leader is Christ. Heb 12:12
Yet God has given Pastors + Elders to lead God's people

II. The Commands for the Pass (Vs 3-4)
Nehemiah lays out some specific instructions
concerning those gates. These inlets to city

A. Commands for Closing (Vs 3a) - Nehemiah
said it needs to be broad daylight before the
gates were opened. The early morning hours and
the twilight hours were off limits. These were
times when mischief tended to take place. Times
when the city was vulnerable to attack.

This is good advice. At other times we are
more vulnerable to sin. Shut the gate turn

B. Commands for Keeping (Vs 3b) - Again
there is an emphasis on keeping or guarding.
These people whose homes were against the
wall had a vested interest in guarding that wall.
These watches were in 4 hour shifts thru
the night. They were to diligently guard
the city. We are to keep a constant watch
out for the enemy! Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart

III. The Collection of the People (Vs 5-6)

Notice there was an assembly of all
the people of God. I want you to see it was

A. A Divine Collection (Vs 5) All thru

1) ...with just walls of strength an fortification from the enemy. We must continue to go forward for God! Every child of God of us can not only rebuild walls of protection around our lives but can continue to grow beyond just walls and go forward for God by applying the principals that Nehemiah exemplifies in this chapter.

2) Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...

3) Shut the gate. Lock the doors to your heart! 2 Corinthians 6:17 touch not the unclean thing... Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:

4) Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

4) With just walls of strength an fortification from the enemy. We

must continue to go forward for God! Every child of God of us

1) To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge! To do the will of God is the greatest achievement.

2) Psalms 5:8 Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face. Psalms 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Psalms 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. Psalms 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

3) Each group played a vital role in the developing and progressing of the city of Jerusalem. This directed the assembly to their set task. You have a role in the family of God, it is vital that you seek out that role and fill it.

4) Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are

the issues of life. Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man

fall of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up

trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. James 1:14-15 But

every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust,

and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth

sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Ephesians

4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

This whole book Nehemiah has been a man directed and led by God. This collection and census of the people was divinely appointed. George Truett said 'To know the will of God is 1
We can know God's will and do God's will be-
cause we have God's word! We can be just as
divinely guided as Nehemiah by the word of God

B. A Directing Collection (vs 6-60) Nehemiah
concern was. who was able to repopulate the
city and regularize the city of God's people. This
list of names is dividing yet it is directing (vs 6-7)
Original leaders' Jews who were laymen (8-38)
Priests (vs 39-42) Levites (43) Singers (44) Gate
keepers (45) Temple Servants (vs 46-56) Descendants
of the Servants of Solomon (57-60) Each group 3

II. The Conflict over the Parentage (vs 61-65)

Just because your walls are built
doesn't mean that you are done with gifts

A. A Conflict Defused by Relationship (vs 61
64) This group from Telmela had a problem
they couldn't show factually that they
were of the seed of Israel. Were they part
of God's people or not. It is only by their
parental relationship that this is clarified.

Application, is it easy to distinguish
that you are a child of God or is there some question

B. A Conflict Disrupted by Revelation (vs 65)

The other conflict had to do with the
priestly role. It involved matters of ritual

Purity and contamination for the whole people. This was to be decided by Urin + Thummin. Urin "lights or flares" Thummin "perfects" Used to discern the will of God. ~~Again today God makes his will known to us by the word of God.~~

V. The Contribution to the Project.

Going forward for God is a task that will cost us personally + collectively as a church.

A. The Contribution of a Strong Group

(Vs 66-69) This was a large strong group. A group of people great in number and resources. We are a people that are counted in that number that make up the mighty army of God. And in order for us to go forward we must make ourselves available for God's use.

B. The Contribution of Selfless Giving

(70-73) Boy this is one more of a way to end a sermon on giving by talking about giving. When I as a preacher talk about giving and tithing I am not trying to get your money. I am trying to cause you to go forward in growth. You will never go forward with God until you resolve this matter about who's money that is in your account. Yours or God's.

VI. Closing

Just because you have seen a little success, does not mean that you stop and rest at ease. Meet Robinson
Keep moving forward!

- 1) ...word of God and by his Holy Spirit. He will guide us in pleasant places: Psalms 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He will guide us in making decisions: Psalms 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. He will guide us unto the end of life: Psalms 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death. He will guide us in wise counsel: Psalms 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. He will guide us with a still small voice: Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. He will guide us in the midst of uncertainty: Isaiah 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. He will guide us into all truth: John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.